

### **3.17 SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

As discussed in this chapter, impacts are associated with changes in the difference between probabilities of occurrence for specific resource issues under study when comparing the action alternatives to baseline conditions. Reclamation has determined that most of the potential impacts identified are not of a magnitude that would require specific mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate their occurrence because the small changes in probabilities of occurrence are within Reclamation's current operational regime and authorities under applicable federal law. In recognition of potential effects that could occur under baseline conditions or with implementation of the interim surplus criteria alternatives under consideration, Reclamation has developed a number of environmental commitments, described below, that will be undertaken if interim surplus criteria are implemented. Some commitments are the result of compliance with specific consultation requirements.

#### **3.17.1 WATER QUALITY**

Reclamation will continue to monitor salinity and TDS the Colorado River as part of the ongoing Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Program to ensure compliance with the numeric criteria on the river as set forth in the Forum's 1999 Annual Review.

Reclamation will continue to participate in the Lake Mead Water Quality Forum and the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee as a principal and funding partner in studies of water quality in the Las Vegas Wash and Lake Mead. Reclamation is an active partner in the restoration of the Las Vegas Wash wetlands.

Reclamation is and will continue to acquire riparian and wetland habitat around Lake Mead and on the Lower Colorado River related to ongoing and projected routine operations.

Reclamation will continue to participate with the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection and Kerr-McGee Chemical Company in the perchlorate remediation program of groundwater discharge points along Las Vegas Wash which will reduce the amount of this contaminant entering the Colorado River.

Reclamation will continue to monitor river operations, reservoir levels and water supply and make this information available to the CRMWG, agencies and the public. See also Reclamation's website (<http://www.lc.usbr.gov> and <http://www.uc.usbr.gov>).

### **3.17.2 RIVERFLOW ISSUES**

Reclamation will continue to work with the stakeholders in the AMP to develop an experimental flow program for the operations of Glen Canyon Dam which includes Beach/Habitat-Building-Flows (BHBFs) and is designed to protect, mitigate adverse impacts to and improve the values for which GCNP and GCNRA were established.

### **3.17.3 AQUATIC RESOURCES**

Reclamation will initiate a temperature monitoring program below Hoover Dam with state and other federal agencies to document temperature changes related to baseline conditions and implementation of interim surplus criteria and assess their potential effects on listed species and the sport fishery. The existing hydrolab below Hoover Dam will be modified as necessary to provide this temperature data.

### **3.17.4 SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES**

Section 7 consultation is in progress and commitments will be identified in the ROD.

### **3.17.5 RECREATION**

Reclamation is initiating a bathymetric survey of Lake Mead in fiscal year 2001 and will coordinate with the Lake Mead National Recreation Area to identify critical recreation facility elevations and navigational hazards that would be present under various reservoir surface elevations.

Reclamation will continue to monitor river operations, reservoir levels and water supply and make this information available to the CRMWG, agencies and the public. This operational information will provide the Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area with probabilities for future reservoir elevations to aid in management of navigational aids, recreation facilities, other resources, and fiscal planning.

Reclamation will continue its consultation and coordination with the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area and the Navajo Nation on the development of Antelope Point as a resort destination.

### **3.17.6 CULTURAL RESOURCES**

Reclamation shall continue to consult and coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council), Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, Tribes and interested parties with regard to the potential effects of the proposed action as required by Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act following the

Council's recommended approach for consultation for the Protection of Historic Properties found at 36 CFR 800.

### **3.17.7 TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS**

It is the position of the United States State Department through the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC) that the United States does not mitigate for impacts in a foreign country. The United States will continue to participate with Mexico through the USIBWC Technical Work Groups to develop cooperative projects beneficial to both countries.